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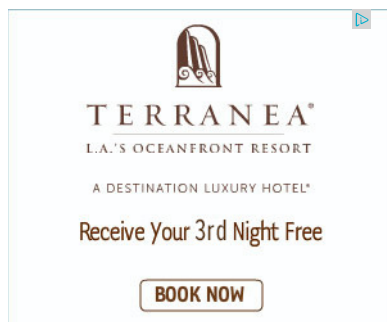
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County division recognized for smart spending

Supervisor column

By: Placer County Board of Supervisor Jim Holmes



As a Placer County supervisor, I take seriously my role as one of five elected officials responsible for the fiscal stability of this local agency. Ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent as responsibly as possible is our top priority. With 60-plus departments and divisions, more than 2,500 employees and a budget of nearly \$800 million, this is no small task. Although my fellow elected officials and I may have the final say on the budget, it is the employees who use their skills and creativity every day that keep this county running

efficiently. One prime example is the county's procurement services division.

This division provides centralized purchasing services for county departments, overseeing purchases ranging from office supplies to county vehicles. This work is done by procurement services manager Brett Wood and his nine-person staff.

As you can imagine, with so many departments — each with different needs — the potential for losing track of spending is great.

And yet, for the 13th consecutive year, Placer County's procurement services division has received the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement award, one of the nation's highest honors for responsible spending practices.

The award is sponsored by the National Procurement Institute and a number of national and state partner associations. Placer County is one of only 49 government agencies in California and one of only 47 counties in the United States and Canada to receive an award this year.

Receiving this award for the 13th straight year is an incredible achievement, in my opinion. The professional staff that oversees our contracts and purchases should be recognized for their diligence, consistency and creativity in ensuring, year after year, that Placer County is acting responsibly with the taxpayer dollars.

Just as our county leadership is focused on identifying opportunities for streamlining operations and making the most of our financial resources, the procurement services division has made identifying innovative and cost-saving practices a priority at a division-specific level.

Procurement staff have identified and developed new and innovative ways to streamline the county's purchasing process, often utilizing newly-developed technology.

Although this is the high level of service we all expect of our public agencies, the consistent hard work and dedication of our procurement services division deserves recognition and I am so pleased they have received this award.

Congratulations!

Jim Holmes is the Placer County Supervisor for District 3, which covers Loomis, North Auburn, Ophir, Newcastle, Penryn and most of Rocklin. To contact Holmes, call (530) 889-4010 or email jholmes@placer.ca.gov.



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